

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 remain in the application. Claims 1-11 have been rejected by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully traverses rejections to claims 1-11. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11 to correct various informalities. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

At ¶1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11 for various informalities. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11 as the Examiner suggests. That objection should therefore be withdrawn. In the application originally filed on May 23, 2001, the last claim was erroneously numbered as claim 12. The Examiner has referred to that claim as claim 11 throughout the Office Action. Accordingly, that claim has been amended to be correctly referenced as claim 11.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC §102

At ¶3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319 by Neisch et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Neisch"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections to claims 1-3, 5 and 7-11. In particular, Neisch does not teach or suggest a switching network map, which is an element of independent claims 1 and 8, and is critical to the claimed invention (see claim 1, lines 4-8, and claim 8, lines 4-7). The switching network map (also referred to as the SCM map

140) is described in detail in the specification at page 9, paragraph 0034, and an exemplary embodiment of a switching network map is shown in FIG. 4. No such SCM map is taught or suggested in Neisch. Use of the switching network map, as described and claimed, provides a significant advantage over the prior art systems, e.g., Neisch, by providing the user the ability to identify and implement a path from the testing devices to the DUT with simple commands, and often a single command. The Examiner cites Neisch, Figure 3 as teaching a switching network map. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. References to Figure 3 in Neisch do not teach or suggest a switching network map as disclosed and claimed. For example, at column 2, lines 58 and 59, Neisch describes Figure 3 as ". . . a portion of the integration test station of FIG. 1 in greater detail." An element of independent claims 1 and 8, namely the switching network map, is not taught or suggested in Neich. The 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of those claims is therefore improper and should be withdrawn. Since claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 depend from claim 1, the rejection of those claims should also be withdrawn. Likewise, since claims 8, 10 and 11 depend from claim 8, the rejection of those claims should also be withdrawn. In summary, claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 8-11, as amended, should be allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. 103

At ¶4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319) in view of Mogi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,810,958). As described above, claim 1 should be allowable. Since claim 4 depends from claim 1, claim 4 should also be allowable. The rejection of claim 4 is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

At ¶5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 6 1-3, 5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319) in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,027). As described above, claim 1 should be allowable. Since claim 6 depends from claim 1, claim 6 should also be allowable. The rejection of claim 4 is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

All claims 1-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Passage to issue is requested.

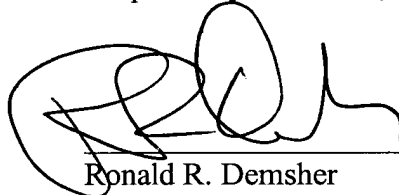
The total number of claims remains the same. Therefore, no additional claim fee is required. An extension fee of \$110.00 pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a) for a reply within the first month is also enclosed. No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, should any fees be due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1133. A copy of this page is enclosed for this purpose.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues to be resolved with respect to the above-identified application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience so that such issues may be resolved telephonically.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald R. Demsher', written over a horizontal line.

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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of sequentially connecting one or more testing devices to I/O ports of a DUT through a switching network, so as to execute a predetermined testing procedure associated with the DUT, comprising:

generating a switching network map defining one or more connections within the switching network necessary to implement each of a plurality of electrical paths from an input of the switching network to an output of the switching network, wherein each of the plurality of electrical paths is representative of a connection of one of the testing devices to one of the I/O ports of the DUT;

receiving one or more commands, wherein each of the commands uniquely specifies an electrical path connecting a particular testing device to a particular I/O port of the DUT; and,

for each of the one or more commands, comparing the command to the switching network map so as to identify a corresponding electrical path through the switching network, and implementing the corresponding electrical path associated with the command through the switching network; and,

sequentially implementing the electrical paths corresponding to the one or more commands in a predetermined order.

2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including assigning a unique path name to each of the electrical paths, such that each command[s] specifies a particular electrical path via the path name.

3. A method according to claim 1, further including sequentially implementing the electrical paths associated with the one or more commands through the switching network in an

order corresponding to a chronological order of the one or more commands.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein [the] sequentially implementing the electrical paths further includes opening and closing selected switching devices within the switching network.

5. A method according to claim 1, further including programming a computer system to issue the commands in the predetermined order.

6. A method according to claim 1, further including connecting one or more testing devices to multiple DUT sites via the switching network.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further including associating each of the electrical paths with a name that is (i) descriptive of the path and (ii) related to the DUT.

8. (Amended) A system for sequentially connecting one or more testing devices to I/O ports of a DUT through a switching network, so as to execute a predetermined testing procedure associated with the DUT, comprising:

a switching network map defining one or more connections within the switching network necessary to implement each of a plurality of electrical paths from an input of the switching network to an output of the switching network, wherein each of the plurality of electrical paths is representative of a connection of one of the testing devices to one of the I/O ports of the DUT;

a controller for (i) receiving one or more commands, wherein each of the commands uniquely specifies an electrical path connecting a particular testing device to a particular I/O port of the DUT, (ii) comparing each of the commands to the switching network map so as to identify a corresponding electrical path through the switching network, and implementing the corresponding electrical path associated with the command through the switching network, and (iii) sequentially implementing the electrical paths corresponding to the

one or more commands in a predetermined order.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein the switching network includes at least two sub-networks electrically coupled so as to form the plurality of electrical paths.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said sub-networks include an SCM and a DUT board.

[12]11. (Amended) A system according to claim 8, wherein each of said one or more commands includes a pin name that is (i) descriptive of the path and (ii) related to the DUT.